

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 7-9 and 12-39 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter. Please AMEND claim 10, as follows.

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus including an image-reading portion for reading an image of an original, the image-reading portion being disposed in an upper part of said apparatus, an image-forming portion for forming an image on a sheet, the image-forming portion being disposed below said image-reading portion within a space portion, and a sheet delivery portion in the space portion formed between said image-reading portion and said image-forming portion, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a taper formed on an edge portion of a bottom of said image-reading portion defining the space portion, according to Claim 7,

wherein a sheet treating apparatus for performing a treatment such as sorting, alignment, or stapling of sheets on which images are formed, is mounted in the space portion in which said sheet delivery portion is provided.

11. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said sheet treating apparatus includes at least one stack tray, and said taper formed at the edge portion of the bottom of said image-reading portion is situated above said stack tray of said sheet treating apparatus.

12-39. (Cancelled)